

EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for conducting an Examiner Interview via phone. Applicant's counsel discussed the Miller reference and the loops disclosed therein. Applicant's counsel further discussed the meaning in the Office Action of the termination points of the Miller loops terminating in the same axial direction. It was discussed how to more particular identify the meaning of the axial direction of the ends of the loops. It was discussed including a limitation providing for the amount of curvature of the Applicant's loops.

REMARKS

This paper amends independent claims 1 and 10. Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19-21 remain pending. Independent claims 1 and 10 were rejected over Martensen in view of Miller.

Independent Claims 1 and 10

As amended, claims 1 now includes a "loop structure that exceeds 360 degrees in curvature between the terminating points of the transition region" and "such that the coupling of the first end and the transition region occurs in the first axial direction and the coupling of the second end and the transition region occurs in the second axial direction." Similarly, claim 10 now includes "the curved loop exceeding 360 degrees in curvature between the terminating points of the transition region such that the terminating points of the curved loop are provided in the different axial directions."

The structure as now claimed provides a loop structure that provides for more than one revolution around the loop. This structure also allows for the terminating ends of the loop to be provided in different directions such that the loop acts as a transition region from one direction to another direction.

It is respectfully noted, that in combination or singularly, neither Martensen nor Miller provide the claimed structure.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that as combined, the cited combination still lacks the claimed elements of independent claims 1 and 10 and each claim depending therefrom.

CONCLUSION

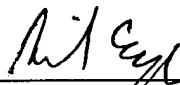
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

No extension of time is believed to be needed in connection with the filing of this paper. However, if an extension is deemed to be needed, please consider this paper to be a request for such extension and deduct any required fee from deposit account 10-1205/EASY:022.

Should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205/EASY:022.

The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard D. Egan
Registration No. 36,788
Attorney for Applicant

O'KEEFE, EGAN & PETERMAN, LLP
1101 Capital of Texas Highway South
Building C, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746
(512) 347-1611
FAX: (512) 347-1615

APPENDIX
MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS
AS REQUIRED BY RULE 121

In The Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A landscape border segment, comprising:
 - a first end formed for insertion into the ground;
 - a transition region coupled to the first end;
 - a second end coupled to the transition region; and
 - a connection feature located proximate the second end, the connection feature formed to connect to another landscape border segment at varied locations between its transition region and first end,

wherein the transition region comprises a curved loop structure that exceeds 360 degrees in curvature between the terminating points of the transition region, the transition region terminating in first and second axial directions, the first and second axial directions being different such that the coupling of the first end and the transition region occurs in the first axial direction and the coupling of the second end and the transition region occurs in the second axial direction.
10. (Twice Amended) A landscape border segment, comprising:
 - a rod-like member having two opposing ends, respectively a first end and a second end, the first end being for insertion of the rod-like member into a landscape

feature, the first end orientated in a first axial direction and the second end orientated in a second axial direction, the first and second axial directions being different;

a transition region in which the rod-like member transitions from the first axial direction to the second axial direction, wherein the transition region comprises a curved loop, the curved loop terminating in different axial directions, the curved loop exceeding 360 degrees in curvature between the terminating points of the transition region such that the terminating points of the curved loop are provided in the different axial directions.; and

a connector located at the second end of the rod-like member, the connector configured to engage another rod-like member of another similarly configured landscape border segment.